

Application no. 09/879,734

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of controlling access to electronic information comprising the steps of:

providing at least one user apparatus;

a remote server; and

a communications link between the at least one user apparatus and the remote server;

allocating disk storage space on the remote server unique to the at least one user apparatus;

allowing the at least one user access to the storage space via username and password login to the server and via secure encryption of data sent to or from the user apparatus from or to the server; and

allowing at least one further user access to the data storage space and wherein the further users access to the data storage space can be managed by the at least one user with regard to times and dates when the at least one further user can write to and/or read from the data storage space.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method of controlling access to electronic information as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secure encryption comprises:

~~transactions between user and server being encrypted using SSL (Secure Socket Layer);~~
~~and transactions involving access to the storage space being further protected by a~~

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requirement for a user to present a digital certificate.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method of controlling access to electronic information as claimed in claim 217, wherein the digital certificate is required whenever the user attempts to read or write from or to the storage space.

Claim 4 (original): A method of controlling access to electronic information as claimed in claim 3, wherein data sent by a user apparatus is encrypted by public key in the case of SSL transactions and additionally by private key via presentation of a digital certificate in the case of accessing the data storage space.

Claim 5 (original): A method of controlling access to electronic information as claimed in claim 4, wherein data received by the server is decrypted via private key in the case of SSL transactions and by public key in the case of digital certificate verification accessing the data storage space.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method of controlling access to electronic information as claimed in claim 6 1, wherein each said at least one further user is allowed access to the data storage space upon presentation of a further digital certificate.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method of controlling access to electronic information as claimed in claim 7, wherein the further users access to the data storage space can be managed by the at least one user with regard to times and dates when the at least one further user can write to and/or read from the data storage space claim 1, wherein the communications link comprises the Internet.

Claim 9 (currently amended): An electronic safety deposit system or tender box system comprising:

at least one user apparatus;

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a remote server;
a communications link between the at least one user apparatus and the remote server;
disk storage space allocated on the remote server unique to the at least one user apparatus; and

means for allowing the at least one user access to the storage space via username and password login and via secure encryption of data sent to or from the user apparatus from or to the server;

means for allowing at least one further user access to the data storage space; and
means for managing the further users access to the data storage space by the at least one user with regard to times and dates when the at least one further user can write to and/or read from the data storage space.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of providing an account-based Internet/Intranet service which allows an at least one account holder to:

create at least one secure electronic deposit box on a centralised server in which a box or boxes ~~can be stored~~ store documentation in a secure environment;

manage timeframes for invited participants to access said documentation and or for the ~~Invited Participant~~ invited participants to upload to the centralised server further documentation, wherein

the method utilizes a method of controlling access to electronic information as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 11 (original): A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the method further allows the at least one account holder to track activity relating to each said at least one electronic deposit box.

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Claim 12 (currently amended): A secure electronic deposit or tender box system comprising an account-based Internet or Intranet server system with a worldwide Web (HTTP) interface for uploading and downloading documentation onto a centralised server in a secure environment, using digital certificates to ensure data confidentiality, data integrity, data authentication, non-repudiation and proof of origin and receipt, the system using an electronic safety deposit system as claimed in claim 9.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A computer program product adapted for use in the method of any of claims 1 to 8, 10 and 11.

Claim 14 (original): A computer program product when used in the method of any of claims 1 to 8, 10 and 11.

Claim 15 (original): A computer program adapted for implementation of the method of any of claims 1 to 8, 10 and 11.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A computer or ~~computer network~~ server when loaded with the computer program product adapted for use in any of claim 15 claims 1 or 9.

Claim 17 (new): A method of controlling access to electronic information as claimed in claim 2, wherein the secure encryption further comprises transactions between user and server being encrypted using Secure Socket Layer (SSL).

Claim 18 (new): An electronic safety deposit system or tender box system as claimed in claim 9, wherein the secure encryption comprises transactions involving access to the storage space being further protected by a requirement for a user to present a digital certificate, in use.

Claim 19 (new): Use of an electronic safety deposit system or tender box system in a method of controlling access to electronic information as claimed in claim 1.